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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,503	12/12/2003	Hak Fei Poon	134417-1	1916
6147	7590	12/13/2005	EXAMINER	
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY GLOBAL RESEARCH PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59 NISKAYUNA, NY 12309			PATEL, ASHOK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2879	

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-15 and 28-43, drawn to an EL device, classified in class 313, subclass 498;
- II. Claims 16-27, drawn to an EL layer, classified in class 428, subclass 917;
- III. Claims 44-60, drawn to a light source, classified in class 362, subclass 84; and
- IV. Claims 123-131, drawn to a wiping head, classified in class 347, subclass 33;
- V. Claims 61-97, drawn to a method of selectively removing a coating, classified in class 427, subclass 271; and
- VI. Claims 98-122, drawn to an apparatus for removing a coating, classified in class 156, subclass 345.1.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and IV are divergent.

Inventions I and V are divergent.

Inventions I and VI are divergent.

Inventions II and IV are divergent.

Inventions II and V are divergent.

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Inventions II and VI are divergent.

Inventions III and IV are divergent.

Inventions III and V are divergent.

Inventions III and VI are divergent.

Inventions IV and V are divergent.

3. Inventions IV and VI are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the process can be used to clean or etch the surface of an object; or the process as claimed can be used to clean or paint or etch an object.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for

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Group II or III or IV or V or V, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. A telephone call was made to Mr. Robert Santandrea on November 29, 2005 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

8. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

9. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-2456. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ashok Patel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2879